

White House hopeful Sanders raises \$34.5m in fourth quarter

REUTERS, Washington

Bernie Sanders raised more than \$34.5 million in the last quarter of 2019, his presidential campaign said yesterday, the largest three-month haul of any Democrat so far in the contest to take on Republican President Donald Trump in a November election.

The announcement, which brings his total fundraising last year to \$96 million, appears to confirm Sanders' position as the leading fundraiser in the nominating contest, in which states begin caucusing and voting next month. Some candidates have not yet disclosed their fourth-quarter fundraising numbers.

US Senator Sanders of Vermont, a Democrat who wants to reduce the sway of corporate America, has built his campaign on small donations, largely through online fundraising from an ethnically diverse and mostly young coalition of supporters.

Campaign manager Faiz Shakir said Sanders' "grassroots movement" showed he was he best placed candidate to defeat Trump.

"He is proving each and every day that working class Americans are ready and willing to fully fund a campaign that stands up for them and takes on the biggest corporations and the wealthy," Shakir said in a statement.

Sanders, 78, bounced back from a heart attack in early October to win growing support for his platform of expanding government-run healthcare, free college and investment in renewable energy paid for with higher taxes on the wealthy.

Sanders said this week that about 1.3 million Americans had donated to

his campaign.

His campaign said the most common occupation among Sanders' fourth-quarter donors was teacher, and the most common employers were Amazon, Starbucks, Walmart, the U.S. Postal Service and Target.

Sanders is polling second in most national opinion polls behind former Vice President Joe Biden.

Pete Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana - who is polling behind Biden, Sanders and U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts - raised \$24.7 million in the fourth quarter, an increase on previous periods.

Hillary Clinton named Belfast university chancellor

AFP, London

Former US secretary of state and presidential candidate Hillary Clinton was appointed as the new chancellor of Queen's University Belfast yesterday.

Clinton will serve for five years in the largely ceremonial role, the Northern Irish institution announced.

"It is a great privilege to become the chancellor of Queen's University, a place I have great fondness for and have grown a strong relationship with over the years," Clinton said in a statement.

"The university is making waves internationally for its research and impact and I am proud to be an ambassador and help grow its reputation for excellence."

Dui Takar Bank

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rickshaw-pullers, human hauler drivers, and tea-stall workers. They can hardly bear the educational expenses."

According to the headmaster, 61 students dropped out in 2016, 65 in 2017, 53 in 2018 and 15 in 2019 due to poverty. "It has gone down by 80 percent compared to last year. We still have Tk 10,000 left in the bank," he said.

The school, which was established in 1927, charges Tk 250 monthly fee to students of grade III-VII and Tk 240 to the rest.

Nur Islam, father of a sixth grader, said, "It became almost impossible for me to bear educational expenses of my daughter but the bank came as a relief," said Nur, who runs a

tea-stall in Dinajpur town. "Now the students are feeling safe knowing that the school is beside them," he went on.

Recently the school authorities opened a shop on the school premises where handicrafts made by the students are being put on sale. Special classes on handicrafts and cooking are offered to the students of class VI, VII, VIII, IX and X.

"In these classes, they learn to make decorative items using jute and scraps like plastic bottles. They made 60 decorative pieces this year," said Afsana Akhter, a teacher.

"The money earned from the shop also goes to Dui Takar Bank. Therefore, we believe that next year, we will be able to support more students," she added.

Sudan tribal

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launched an investigation into the bloodshed, while a delegation of senior officials visited the area.

The government also deployed troops to El Geneina to restore order.

Residents of El Geneina who spoke to AFP by phone said security forces were patrolling main roads in the city, confirming that the fighting had subsided.

According to Sudanese media, the fighting erupted after a row between two people.

A woman reached by phone said she had fled the Krinding camp for displaced Masalit, a non-Arab ethnic group, near El Geneina after assailants torched tents there.

"Our tents were set on fire. We have no food and only the clothes on our back and there are bodies littering the ground," she told AFP.

In January 2016, six people were killed in unrest in West Darfur following violence involving Masalit tribesmen and members of the Arab Beni Halba tribe.

445 Bangladeshis returned

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trespassing."

The number of returnees from India rose in the last two months after the Indian government published the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam in August, leaving 19 lakh people in the northeastern state virtually stateless.

India also amended its citizenship law sparking violent protests.

The Bangladesh foreign minister and the home minister cancelled their planned visits to India as protests flared.

Yesterday, the BGB chief said there was no discussion over the NRC at the director general-level meeting.

Replying to a query, he said there was no tension between the two border forces.

Shafeenul said the BGB was planning to buy some modern weapons and ammunition to beef up security along borders with Myanmar.

The force also plans to purchase speedboats to patrol the Indo-Bangla border along the Padma and the

Sundarbans, and also the Myanmar-Bangladesh border along the Naf river.

Asked about the rise in border killings, the BGB chief said they had expressed concern over it at the DG-level talks.

"The DG of BSF assured me that they will be more careful and cautious to avoid border killings."

According to the BGB's count, 35 Bangladeshis were killed in the border areas last year, he added.

Boy's body found

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said the victim, Adil, son of madrasa teacher Jobayer Haque, went missing on Wednesday afternoon.

The arrestees triggered suspicion, he said.

Later, locals searched the almirah of Jonayed's room where the body was found, the OC added.

The body was sent to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College for an autopsy, he added.



Iraqi counter-terrorism forces stand guard in front of the US embassy in the capital Baghdad yesterday. The US embassy siege by pro-Iran protesters in Baghdad lasted just over a day, but analysts warn it could have lasting implications for Iraq's complex security sector and diplomatic ties.

PHOTO: AFP

Leaders say demo over

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expressed their solidarity and joined the demonstrations at Notunrasta Mor," Tareq said.

Iqbal Hassan, a worker of Crescent Jute Mill, said, "I am in a fix. Should I have left the job or should I wait to get wage commission?"

"My three children joined the demonstrations and took part in the hunger strike even though I forbade them to do so... I would rather die than see my daughter from the seventh grade on the street with us.

"Our children should go to school but they are now in the movement to help their parents," he said.

Around 3:00pm, six-year-old Yasin Sheikh said, "I came to see my father, Rafiqul Islam, who has not been home for the last four days."

Rafiqul is a temporary worker at Platinum Jute Mill.

"Twenty-one leaders of the workers were in Dhaka to attend a meeting with the jute minister at Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation yesterday afternoon," said Sarder Abdul Hamid, convener of CBAs and non-CBA Sangram Parishad.

BNP's Khulna city and district unit formed a human chain in front of its party office at KD Ghosh Road

yesterday noon. There, BNP leaders said the government has made false promises to jute workers several times.

Nazrul Islam Monju, president of Khulna BNP, said the government should immediately implement the wage commission for thousands of jute workers.

Around 31,000 workers went into work abstention and observed fast-unto-death from December 10 to December 13.

Production in nine mills came to a halt due to the demonstrations. Carpeting Jute Mills in Jashore, however, was operating partially.

Later, workers postponed their protest until December 17 upon assurances from State Minister Monnujan Sufian of fulfilling their demands.

On December 27, leaders of "Sangram Parishad" announced they would resume their demonstrations as their demands were not met.

The demands include cancellation of public-private ownership initiative, allocation of necessary funds for the jute sector, insurance for families of dead workers, ensuring payment of provident funds and gratuity accumulations for retired workers, and the job regularisation for temporary workers.

600 BNP, JCD

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According to the case statement, the 75 accused, along with some 500-600 unidentified "leaders and activists", attacked police, tried to snatch away their arms, snatched the trigger guard of a police rifle and beat up five cops with bamboo sticks during the incident.

Among the 75 accused are presidents and general secretaries of the JCD's 12 upazila units in Bogura.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, a local Chhatra Dal leader said police accused Al Razib, senior vice president of the student front's Bogura town unit, in the case. But he had landed in jail on November 25 in another case, claimed the JCD leader.

Asked about the matter, Bogura Sadar OC SM Badiuzzaman said there might be a mistake in accusing one or two people. "We will verify the information."

Contacted, local BNP lawmaker GM Siraj said filing of the case against so many Chhatra Dal men was "a planned game" of the ruling Awami League.

No lease

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government and BBC Steel Ltd to explain why the lease agreement should not be declared illegal. It also directed the authorities to stop constructing the shipbreaking yard in the area.

After holding hearings on the rule, the court yesterday delivered the verdict.

Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury, the lawyer for BBC Steel Ltd, told The Daily Star that his client would move an appeal before the Supreme Court's Appellate Division challenging the HC judgment.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Minhajul Haque Chowdhury appeared for the petitioner.

Dinosaurs shrank in size, paving the way

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Scientists have previously struggled to explain the origins of endothermy – the state of being warm-blooded – mainly due to the lack of fossil evidence.

However, researchers at the University of Chile say their latest findings shed light on how mammals became warm-blooded. They analysed how animals regulate their body heat, comparing this with different body sizes of theropods – a group of two-legged, three-toed dinosaurs from which all birds evolved.

Warm-blooded animals must balance how much heat their body makes – known as metabolic production – with how much is lost during physical activity or in cold weather. The new findings suggest metabolic rates rose steadily throughout most of the early to mid-Jurassic period, around 180million years ago.

They also indicate that a warm-

blooded creature would need to shrink nine-fold to have the same energy needs as a cold-blooded creature of the same size.

For instance, a 43kg (6.7 stone) modern-day warm-blooded bird would have the same needs as its 370kg (58 stone) cold-blooded dinosaur ancestor, reports the journal Science Advances. The study says the theropods population rose 30-fold as they profited from growing smaller as endothermy evolved.

'How is it human?'

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to this detention centre will not come back," said Gulam Nabi.

"How is it human to isolate a person from the population, from his family and put him behind these giant walls?" asked Nabi, pointing towards the high walls of the compound.

Besides a hospital, the centre will have a dining area, school, recreational centre, and two separate lodging facilities designated for male and female inmates.

"Male and female inmates will be kept in separate areas divided by a six feet red-coloured wall. There will be 13 male blocks of four storeys each and two female blocks of the same size," Rabindra Das, an engineer with Assam's police housing board and incharge of the construction of the detention facility, told Al Jazeera.

"The entire compound is surrounded by two walls, the inner being 20 feet high, followed by the outer wall six feet high," Das said.

As a security measure, the detention centre has six watchtowers for round-the-clock monitoring, supported by a 100-metre high-beam light.

According to officials at the construction site, the centre was sanctioned by India's federal home ministry in June last year and was supposed to be completed by December. However, the deadline has now been pushed to April this year.

"It is a central government project. We have to finish the entire construction by April," said Das.

While the government has not yet announced a nationwide NRC, a number of detention centres are coming up across the country.

In Assam, which has witnessed a movement against mainly Bangla-speaking migrants for more than four decades, at least six detention centres are already operational.

On December 3, India's Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy, in a written response, informed the Parliament that an existing detention centre in Goalpara has 201 inmates, Kokrajhar has 140, Silchar 71, Dibrugarh 40, Jorhat 196, and Tezpur centre holds 322 inmates.

There have been nearly 100 deaths in these centres since 2008, including suicides by the inmates.

In July, another Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, said all the states have been asked to establish detention centres according to a Model Detention Centre Manual prepared by the government.

On December 22, the southern state of Karnataka opened a centre for undocumented migrants in Nelamangala, some 40km (27 miles) from the capital city of Bengaluru.

An existing government building with six rooms, a kitchen and a security room was turned into a detention centre which can house 24 inmates. Recently, two watchtowers and a compound wall were added to secure the area.

The western state of Goa inaugurated its first detention centre on May 29 last year, while Rajasthan has a centre located inside a federal jail.

Reports said a detention centre in the state of Punjab is expected to be completed by May this year.

In the national capital of New Delhi, a detention centre has been operational since 2006 and is run by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

In the western state of Maharashtra, the previous BJP government identified a piece of land on the outskirts of the financial hub of Mumbai to build a detention centre.

However, current Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who leads a coalition government with the main

opposition Congress and other parties, recently assured the state's Muslims to not worry, indicating that his government may not follow the centre's order on establishing a detention centre.

Reports said the government of West Bengal state also identified two locations - near capital Kolkata and in North 24 Parganas district - to construct detention centres.

But Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, a staunch critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, last week said: "Don't fall for rumours. I am ready to give my life but I will not allow BJP to set up detention camps in [West] Bengal, never."

Kerala, another Indian state governed by a left-wing coalition, also put on hold the identification of land for a proposed detention centre.

Though there are no official figures, India's powerful Home Minister Amit Shah, while addressing an election rally in September 2018, claimed the country has about four million undocumented migrants.

MUSLIMS FEAR NATIONWIDE NRC

Among the 1.9 million undocumented migrants who could not make it to the NRC list in Assam, nearly half were Muslims, according to a report by the United Against Hate group.

Now, India's 200 million Muslims fear the process will be implemented across the country by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to marginalise the community.

The passing of the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) last month has aggravated such fears, leading to huge protests across the country and resulting in at least 26 deaths so far.

The CAA grants Indian citizenship to six religious groups, except Muslims, from the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who came to the country

before 2015.

Critics say the law violates India's secular constitution by making religion a basis for citizenship. Muslims, on the other hand, fear the CAA is a precursor to NRC aimed at making their nationality questionable.

Recently, Prime Minister Modi contradicted his home minister by claiming his government never considered a nationwide NRC.

"Since my government has come to power, since 2014 to now, I want to tell [1.3 billion] citizens, there has been no discussion on even the word NRC," Modi said at an election rally in New Delhi.

However, Modi's government has allocated almost \$130bn for creating a National Population Register, which activists say will serve as a database before the NRC is implemented.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused Modi of lying. "The RSS's prime minister is lying to Bharat Mata [Mother India]," Gandhi said in a tweet.

The RSS refers to the far-right Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (or National Association of Volunteers), which draws its inspiration from European Nazis and mentors the ruling BJP.

BJP spokesman Sambit Patra told Al Jazeera that there is "no connection" between setting up of the detention centres and the NRC.

"Don't link it with Muslims. Detention centre is for foreigners who are in India illegally," he said.

But Tanweer Fazal, who teaches political science at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University was not convinced.

"It is an easily understood fact if a non-Muslim gets excluded from NRC, then CAA can be his saviour. So only Muslims are left to go to the detention centres," he told Al Jazeera.